

Applicant clarified that the cam and demating pin are separate from one another. Applicant also clarified that cam pin and demating pin have the same or similar shape. Reference Nomura was discussed, in regards to mating/demating pin. Examiner's opinion was that the shape of the pin is not a patentably distinct feature. Examiner's opinion was that adding additional pins is a duplication of parts and not patentably distinct. Examiner's opinion was that description of pins does not impart functional language. Agreement was reached that Nomura et al do not show that wherein a state where no external force is applied to the lens barrel, the demating prevention pin and the demating prevention groove do not contact each other. Further, it was agreed that Nomura does not disclose three pin/groove sets that function solely as demating pins/grooves.

/William B. Perkey/
for Patrick Assouad, SPE of Art Unit 2862